

West Nile Virus Summary for Washington State, 2004

West Nile virus was not detected in Washington State in 2004.

Humans

- Surveillance findings showed that there were no indigenously acquired infections; three people were infected with WNV while out of state and diagnosed in Washington.
- Surveillance for WNV infection among blood donors was done over the entire year. DOH coordinated with blood banks to develop a system of reciprocal reporting.
- The national case definition was expanded to include all West Nile virus infections, and in response the State Board of Health revised the notifiable conditions reporting requirement for arboviral infections. The new reporting rule was made permanent in early 2005.

Equines

- 57 symptomatic horses were tested with negative results.

Birds

- 553 dead birds were submitted for testing from 34 out of 39 counties in Washington. All were negative.
- 392 sera from sentinel chickens from two counties were submitted for testing. All tested negative.

Mosquito Identification and Tested Pools

- Mosquito identification for potential WNV vectors occurred in 23 counties and over 2,100 mosquito trapping events collected over 95,100 mosquitoes
- A total of 1015 mosquito pools from 11 counties all tested negative for WNV.

DOH Communications and Education Activities

- Two public service announcements were distributed to over 100 radio stations in both English and Spanish across the state.
- The *West Nile Virus in Washington* Web site provides pertinent information for a variety of audiences. The Web site remains one of the department's most popular, consistently in the top 20 most viewed pages during the summer months.
- The West Nile virus newsletter was published throughout the surveillance season. This provides agencies with the latest local, regional, and national perspectives on WNV.
- A toll free information number has been in operation and includes updates on WNV related issues throughout the year.
- A mailing sent to more than 19,000 health care providers about West Nile virus infection included information about clinical testing and reporting.
- Veterinarians received presentations and updates on West Nile virus through a joint DOH and Washington State Department of Agriculture effort.

Control Measures

- DOH assisted local entities by extending coverage of their Aquatic Mosquito Control National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit to 78 entities in the state.
- Commercial pest control businesses were allowed to apply for coverage under the DOH Aquatic Mosquito Control General Permit.